

RT. REV. CHARLES H. BRENT, D.D.
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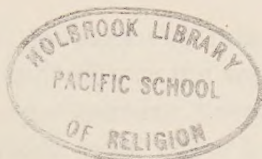
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TREASURER

WORLD CONFERENCE ON FAITH AND ORDER

CONTINUATION COMMITTEE REPRESENTING THE FOLLOWING COMMUNIONS:

ANGLICAN, ARMENIAN, BAPTIST, CONGREGATIONAL, CZECHOSLOVAK, DISCIPLES, EASTERN ORTHODOX, FRIENDS, GERMAN
EVANGELICAL, LUTHERAN, METHODIST, MORAVIAN, OLD CATHOLIC, PRESBYTERIAN, REFORMED, SOUTH INDIA UNITED

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
ROBERT H. GARDINER
174 WATER STREET, GARDINER, MAINE, U.S.A.
CABLE ADDRESS: ROBGARD, BOSTON



The Continuation Committee appointed by the preparatory meeting of the World Conference on Faith and Order in Geneva, Switzerland, August 12 to 20, 1920, has begun its work of further preparation for the World Conference.

The first and far the most important preparation is that of prayer. The Committee makes at the outset two requests: (1) That every church where provision is not yet so made should, in such manner as is in accordance with its customs, secure that the unity of Christendom should be a regular subject of prayer in the ordinary services and meetings for worship in the church; and (2) that from time to time special prayer should be made that the Spirit of God may guide the preparations for the World Conference on Faith and Order.

The second preparation is the creation of intelligent interest in the subject among the general membership of the churches.

The third preparation is of a more special kind. The Continuation Committee has appointed a Subjects Committee as one of the committees preparing for the World Conference on Faith and Order. To the Subjects Committee has been assigned the duty of organizing preliminary discussion throughout the world of some of the more important subjects, in order that they may be prepared for consideration at the first session of the World Conference, which will be held whenever the Continuation Committee thinks these and other topics are thoroughly prepared.

The object which the movement has in view is the real reunion of Christendom. With this object in view, Christian people are asked to reconsider what is God's plan for the Church, and what is the nature of the Church in the purpose of God. In connection with this, they are further asked to consider what will be the nature and characteristics of the reunited Church.

It is important to note that it is not desired that churches should officially pledge themselves to any answers to the circulated questions. It is the reports of the World Conference on Faith and Order itself which should come before the churches officially, with the hope that the churches may be able to act upon them.

One object of these preliminary discussions throughout the world is to secure that the Conference when it meets should not be ignorant of the importance which is attached to different views in any parts of the world. Another is that attempts at adjustment and recon-

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ciliation of conflicting views should have already been made in many countries, and that the Conference should be able to build on the foundation of these attempts. A third object is that Christians throughout the world should become accustomed to look at their own particular opinions, practices and customs in the light of the needs of the Universal Church, and the place which these opinions and practices ought to occupy in a reunited Church.

Therefore the Bishop of Bombay, for the Subjects Committee, makes the following request with regard to the enclosed First Series of topics for discussion:

In order to prepare the minds of Christian people for the World Conference, and also to facilitate the work of the Conference itself, the Continuation Committee wishes preliminary discussions to be held throughout the world on the main questions which must come before the Conference.

Will you arrange for members of your church, including younger members and if possible members of other churches, to meet in order to discuss the questions enclosed? Will you please collect the results of such conferences and forward reports to the Right Reverend the Bishop of Bombay, Malabar Hill, Bombay, India, before April 10, 1921. It would be a convenience to him if these reports were written in English, French, German or Greek, or, when written in any other language, if they could be accompanied by a translation into one of those languages.

The following ideas should be impressed on all those who take part in the discussion of these questions.

The ultimate object is to attain to a clearer idea of the nature and characteristics of the reunited Universal Church.

All those who take part in the discussions will endeavour not only to understand and state clearly what views the communions to which they severally belong hold on these subjects, but also whether it would be possible or reasonable that the Universal Church should hold those views.

For the Subjects Committee,

EDWIN JAMES BOMBAY, *Convener.*

The accompanying report of the preparatory meeting at Geneva will be of help in arranging for these local discussions.

Hoping that you will give the matter prompt attention, and that you will send me names and addresses of people who would like to receive the report of the Geneva meeting and future publications, as well as the pamphlets issued by the Commission of the American Episcopal Church while it was inviting the churches of the world to take part in the World Conference movement, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

ROBERT H. GARDINER,

Secretary.

